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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 14 | Humidity 55% Mainly clear sky. Misty morning Sensex 59,855 | Nifty 17,805 | Gold 47,851 | Silver 62,014 | Dollar 74.63 | Euro 84.18 | GBP 100.67

NO WAY TO TREAT GUEST LECTURERS

PAGE 2

PAGE 7

TOO MUCH POSITIVITY: EXPERTS WANT END TO GATHERINGS

WEEKEND CURFEW BACK, SCHOOLS GO OFFLINE. MORE GUIDELINES INSIDE

Unregulated pet trade by a generic trade licence overlooking certification from fisheries, animal husbandry departments raises concern

PET SHOP PLOYS

800-odd aquariums/pet shops in the city

Bellie.Thomas@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @Bellie_MIRROR

More than 95% of the pet shops and aquaria in Bengaluru are not registered with animal husbandry and fisheries departments — mandatory for a trade licence from the BBMP.

The government had issued a circular for mandatory registrations of aquariums dealing with ornamental fishes with the fisheries department, but hardly anyone came forward thanks to lack of awareness, and the assumption that a BBMP trade licence shall suffice.

Moreover, businesses are wary of post registration adherence to prescribed standards and specifications and fear a trivial violation could invite trouble.

Animal activists BM spoke to said the BBMP needs to act and order closure of all pet shops and aquaria that do not have authorisation. "Businesses managed trade licences prior to the 2013 order that mandated pet shops and aquaria be registered with the animal husbandry and fisheries departments after which, the BBMP was to facilitate the trade licences. However, the civic body has not been insisting on certification and was issuing licences whenever traders approached it," said animal activist Arun Prasad.

"There are many pet shops and aquariums in the city that had started business post 2013 without trade licences from the BBMP; afterwards getting CGST/SGST registrations," Prasad added.

> **"A 2013 order mandates pet shops and aquaria be registered with animal husbandry and fisheries departments.. the BBMP has not been insisting on these certificates..."**
>
> — Arun Prasad, animal activist

Fisheries department assistant director Chikkanna, in-charge of Bengaluru Taluk and BBMP for aquarium licencing, told Bangalore Mirror that there are almost 800 aquariums cum pet shops in the city and around 2,600-odd pet stores across Karnataka. Around 99% of these operate pet shops alongside aquaria.

"There was an amendment by the government in 2013 that registration with the concerned department is mandatory.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

Loos Patience

Proposal to set up 225 restrooms for pourakarmikas, who are frontline staff, loses momentum

Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had come out with a proposal last year for the construction of 225 restrooms for the pourakarmikas.

However, the proposal is yet to get clearance from the state government. The BBMP now hopes the green signal will come this year for the project.

The pourakarmikas who are frontline workers, have staged multiple protests in the past demanding basic needs to be met -- for timely payment of salaries, good working conditions and safety at work.

While the BBMP had initiated setting up of 225 restrooms at a cost of Rs 20 crore, the approval hasn't come from the government.

Nirmala M of the BBMP Pourakarmikara Sangha pointed out that the pourakarmikas have been suffering for long and their demands have not been met. "Most of the pourakarmikas are women. Once the work is done, many want to use restrooms.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

No end in sight for protesting teachers

Guest lecturers want better job security, higher salary; association alleges many suffering from depression

Prakash VL
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Guest lecturers working in 430 government degree colleges in Karnataka have been protesting against job insecurities and unfair pay for the last 25 days. Now, their association has alleged that many have succumbed to death due to depression and other socio-psychological and health issues. Sriharsha Shanubhog, a guest lecturer protesting from Tirthahalli, died by suicide recently. Among the appointed 14,564 guest lecturers protesting, 75 have died of various reasons, so far.

The guest lecturers say that the Karnataka Government is paying meagre salaries compared to other states. Rs 13,000 is being paid for the guest lecturers who passed SLET/NET and have a PhD degree and others without these qualifications are being paid Rs 11,000. Other states pay Rs 26,000 to Rs 30,000 for guest lecturers.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) then prescribed Rs 48,000 as a salary for the guest lecturers. In this background, the guest lecturers boycotted classes on December 12, 2021, and a state-wide protest started on December 14, 2021.

Some of them lost their jobs too. Most of the guest lecturers cannot even pay house rent regularly.

They are demanding that the process of appointing the Assistant Professors is stopped and Rs 25 lakh as relief is released to Sriharsha Shanubhog's family.

Students under AIDSO on Tuesday staged a dharna at DC Office premises asking the state govt to fulfill the demands of the guest lecturers

Karnataka State Government First Grade College Guest Lecturers Association President Hanumathagouda R Kalmani said: "We are demanding a salary of 12 months in a year. We are appointed on merit, but the appointment is done 15 days after the announcement. We have already sent a letter to the Secretary of Higher Education. We work for examinations, NAAC-related work, and other work. Even after all that, we are paid only six months of salary, that too not regularly."

Government First Grade Lecturers Association's State coordinating committee's media spokesperson Dr Ravindra J C says: "As per KCS Rules, Section 132, 1,977 temporary employees can be regularised by the legislature. We want the State Government to regularise all the guest lecturers. We also want to stop the appointment process of Assistant Professors. We will continue till we get justice."

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4 THINGS TO DO

01 For the brides

Check out a special pop-up just for brides, by Hi Life exhibitions. Designed to be fun and inspiring with that added touch of luxury and elegance, 'Hi Life Brides' is a must-visit day out for the entire wedding party. By bringing together a selection of the finest jewellers, wedding suppliers and brides-to-be, 'Hi Life Brides' lays out a world-class setting for brides who share a passion for style and luxury. Whether you are looking for a traditional wedding or are a modern bride seeking a more contemporary affair, it is the event for you!
Where: Taj West End, Race Course Road;
When: Jan 4 – Jan 6, 10 am – 8 pm

02 Stories of the Land

KYNKYNY.com's latest virtual exhibition, 'Stories of the Land', celebrates the sublime sights, sounds and landscapes of rural India, meandering through tranquil hamlets, lush green fields and the lively markets and temples in the countryside. Featuring two prominent and well-loved contemporary artists, Mohan Naik and Sivabalan, the richly expressive artworks are an ode to the lesser-seen and known rural worlds of Goa and Tamil Nadu. The exhibition documents and celebrates the incandescent natural beauty as well as the rich culture, traditions and everyday sights in the region's villages and towns. **Where: KYNKYNY.com**
When: Jan 5 – 31

03 It's drama time, folks!

Watch 'Project Nagna', a play that delves into the issue of destruction in the name of development. Directed and designed by Archana Shyam, the play covers different political, economic, legal and moral angles, and is a Kannada adaptation from an English play 'Project Strip' by Ram Ganesh Kamatham. **Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar; When: Jan 5, 7:30 pm**
Tickets: Rs 150, bookmyshow.com

04 Winter melodies

Take a break from the stress and monotony of work by attending a beautiful musical evening at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too!
Where: Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar; Tickets: 9886294444
When: Wednesdays, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

The groom goes missing

Man involved in Ponzi scam now accused of cheating woman after promising marriage

Bellie.Thomas
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Bellie_Mirror

There is more trouble for director of Injaz Builders Misbah Mukarram who was arrested in a Ponzi scheme case in 2019 where he is accused of swindled Rs 90 crore from his investors in the name of 'halal' investments. A 30-year-old woman has filed a case of cheating and criminal breach of trust against Mukarram after he allegedly swindled around Rs 50 lakh from her promising to get married to her.

In her complaint to the Whitefield police, the woman, a private company employee, says she knew Mukarram since 2016 after she had separated from her first husband. According to her, Mukarram had told her he was going to marry her. "If a Muslim male marries a divorcee, a widow or a woman who is below poverty line, he would go to heaven and he said he was going to marry me because of that," she told Bangalore Mirror.

At the time, Mukkarram was accused in this Ponzi scam. The CCB police had arrested him in June 2019. Mukarram went to jail and got bail and was fighting all the cases at the court.

The woman said she stood by him through these troubles and spent lakhs of rupees for his bail and to return to people who were threatening his family. Mukarram is said to have told her he would meet her parents in Davangere. In 2021, he met her parents and asked for her hand in marriage. They were engaged in March and the wedding was planned for July 1.

"Mukarram was in touch with me till the night of June 30, but on the wedding day, his phone was switched off. The guests had come and my house in Davangere was abuzz, but there was no sign of the groom," she said. They looked for him, but could not trace him. Around 8 pm the same day, Mukkarram called up the woman's father and apologised saying he had to attend a case hearing. He also begged for the woman's forgiveness. She then said she came over to the city to meet him. Once again Mukarram pleaded with her and promised to get married to her. After this he left. And this, the woman says was the last she saw of him. "Mukkarram's phone was switched off and he mysteriously went missing then onwards," she said.

> **"The guests had come and my house in Davangere was abuzz, but there was no sign of the groom** –The woman

She gave missing complaints at city police stations and also launched a hunt for him with the help of her friends. She then approached the Whitefield police and narrated her ordeal after which she lodged a complaint based on which an FIR was registered against Mukarram and he was arrested within four days. She says she will go ahead with the case.

Tipper lorry knocks down, crushes student

A 21-year-old engineering student died on spot after a tipper lorry brushed against the two-wheeler she was riding pillion on and ran over her in Ashoknagar on Tuesday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Sanjana Priya, a resident of RS Palya and a final-year student with a private college. Her cousin, Vinay Kumar, who was riding the vehicle was injured and is currently undergoing treatment. According to the police, the incident took place around 7 am when the two were on their way from Garuda Mall to Jayanagar. The driver of the vehicle abandoned the tipper and ran off. The Ashoknagar traffic police have seized the vehicle. —BMB

Notorious sandalwood smuggling racket busted

During a random vehicle check, Chintamani rural police busted a notorious sandalwood smuggling gang involved in over nine cases in and around Chikkaballapura over the last one year. The police who were carrying out vehicle checks on Bengaluru-Kadapa road around 6 pm had flagged down the vehicle when they tried to take a U-turn and in the melee one of them dropped a gunny sack which had sandalwood logs.

The police swung into action, chased the accused and managed to catch the accused Muniraju, Prasanna, Pradeep, Krishnamurthy and Mohammed Ismail. Based on information from them, the police later arrested Narasimha Murthy and Muniyappa and recovered 70.2 kg of sandalwood logs worth Rs 21 lakh from them. —BMB

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Neglect smells foul

Pushpagiri Nagar residents say they've faced it all... Roads are bad and covered with leaves, lake stinks and area around it is dumping spot for litterbugs; but there's more

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Folks have been dumping garbage on the roads, but BBMP workers seldom clear the mess, it is said

Pushpagiri Nagar, near Hosarakerehalli Lake, was promised a complete transformation with a gardenscape and beautification. However, residents claimed that they are still struggling with bad roads, a stinky lake, faulty drainage and neglect.

Despite several attempts of residents, the area has not experienced any improvements in over a decade. With potholes, cracks and pits on the roads, the area has become unbearable for motorists.

According to residents, children often fall and get hurt when they're playing outside. In a few cases, minor accidents have occurred due to the bad condition of the roads in this area. Auto rickshaw drivers also refuse to travel on these roads.

"Earlier people used to go out for walks but they have stopped due to the bad condition of the roads," said Raghavendra Rao, a resident of Pushpagiri Nagar, who has been tweeting about the issue for the past 88 days now.

The area received a fresh coat of asphalt roughly 10 years ago. The interior roads were concretised and the main roads were tarred. Since then, the roads have not experienced any maintenance.

"We have given multiple complaints to officials with no respite. The interior roads are bad but the main roads are worse. Senior citizens find it difficult to use the roads," said Sudhir, a resident of the area.

Before the pandemic, the roads were dug up for laying the drainage pipes and are yet to be restored.

The residents said that the area does have regular garbage pick ups but no one is cleaning the interior roads regularly. "The roads are covered with dry leaves every day. Residents are forced to clean the road in front of their houses themselves," said another resident. It is said that when residents complain to BBMP workers, they explain that they haven't been receiving their salaries.

Hosarakerehalli Lake, despite many attempted clean-ups, has turned into a garbage dumping spot. People tend to throw wet and dry waste into the lake and it's surroundings are turning into a stinking menace. Due to the growing accumulation of garbage and chemicals flowing into the lake, it has also turned into a breeding ground for mosquitoes. Residents claimed that in response to an official complaint, empty promises were made to them about the construction of a wall.

The area last received a fresh coat of asphalt roughly 10 years ago. Since then, it has not experienced any maintenance

During rain, manholes in the area burst open and water flows out onto the roads. The area has experienced instances of flooding of other kinds as well. When a contractor attempted to clean the lake, murky water flowed into the streets and flooded homes.

"BBMP keeps talking about fixing potholes in 15 days but we haven't seen any repair work," added Rao.

The Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) of Puspagirinagar said that officials keep getting transferred so it is difficult to follow up on issues in Ward Committee meetings as well. A member of the RWA added that residents and BBMP officials don't attend these meetings regularly and some residents don't take part in local governance at all.

Covid cancels Republic Day Flower Show

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A file pic of the show at Lalbagh, from 2019. At the time, organisers incurred a loss of Rs 40 lakh

The annual, Republic Day special, Flower Show at Lalbagh has been cancelled by the organisers, taking into consideration the latest covid protocols and their fear of incurring great financial loss.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had established a condition to allow only 300 to 500 people at a time for the show to a enable safe viewing environment.

However, the flower show is visited by a huge crowd each year, which would be difficult to manage considering this rule. The organisers concluded that they would incurr huge losses at this rate and decided to cancel the show. "People rush in for the show from all the four gates of Lalbagh. If only 500 people are allowed at a time, considering that they will need to spend at least two or three hours to properly enjoy it, only a limited number of people will be able to attend it. We would lose crores," said director of Mysuru Udyana Kalasangha M Kuppuswamy.

He added, "The prices of most products have increased. For many years, we had to shell out lots of money to organise the show. We are still recovering from the Rs 40 lakh loss that we incurred from the last show in 2019. During a difficult time like this, it is not advisable to organise the show. If the number of covid infections decrease by August, we may organise the show in a grand manner." Director of horticultural department K Nagendra Prasad also wrote a letter to the government stating that it is not feasible to organise the show. He explained that the situation is not conducive to organise the show.

According to previous plans, the event would have commemorated late actor Puneeth Rajkumar

All in vain

It may be noted that as per the previously decided plans, the event would commemorate late actor Puneeth Rajkumar and Dr Rajkumar. The organisers wanted to create idols of them with flowers. Lalbagh was almost ready for the show as decorative plants had already been planted. The organisers were also prepared to transfer flowers from Cubbon Park, Nandi Hills, Ooty, and Kemmannugundi to Lalbagh. Unfortunately, all this preparation will not be celebrated on January 26 anymore.

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Top work wanted

Fraser Town

Tannery Road is covered in dust but the civic authorities won't clean the mess up, a reader wrote to BM

Nowhere to walk

Jayanagar

This stall is encroaching the pavement on 33rd Cross in 4th Block.

Let there be light

Fraser Town

This street near Komala Hotel is devoid of functional streetlights at night.

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Sundaram Large and Mid Cap Fund	5,100	14	2,59,544
Sundaram Multi Cap Fund	1,754	21	1,22,970
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#Sundaram Focused Fund was formerly known as Principal Focused Multicap Fund

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Sundaram Financial Services Opportunities Fund	475	13	32,348

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Sundaram Balanced Advantage Fund	1,619	11	44,030
Sundaram Equity Savings Fund	301	19	10,379

ELSS

Fund Name	AUM (₹ in Cr.)	Vintage (years)	Investor Folios (Nos.)
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Pet store licencing under scanner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But proper implementation did not happen as there was no awareness and moreover, the department was busy with the formation of 75 Fish Farmer Producer Organisations (FFPO) in wake of the 75th Independence Day. Now, we are working exclusively on aquarium trade for which a meeting is scheduled," Chikkanna told Bangalore Mirror adding that the department will incorporate and streamline registration processes including production, marketing, export and import regulations for pet shops and aquaria.

A source at the fisheries department said BBMP does not insist on NOCs or certificates from departments as they are only concerned about sales and tax. The import and export of pet animals/fish fall under other departments as well, concerning air and sea routes.

"If the BBMP starts an aggressive drive on identifying pet shops and aquariums that have not registered, and urges these to register with both fisheries and animal husbandry departments, then the businesses could be regulated properly. As of now, all these outlets are operating only with BBMP trade licences," Chikkanna reiterated.

The fisheries department staff have been contacting individual traders and asking them to get their trade registered; only a few of them did register, the rest ignored fearing further restrictions.

We have to be worried about the import of fish breeds. Fish from other countries will bring new pathogens and new diseases

"We have to be worried about the import of fish breeds. Fish from other countries will bring new pathogens and new diseases; we are supposed to quarantine the fish for a period of time so that they are okay in this habitat, or else, we would be risking lives of our native species," Chikkanna pointed out. "There was an aqua park that was constructed in Hesaraghatta two years ago for this, but it is not serving its purpose now," Chikkanna said.

The animal husbandry department too will have to look into similar issues. There are imported breeds of pet dogs and cats that arrive via airports and ports. There is no regulation and the business is thriving without any governmental interference.

Meanwhile, Manjunath Palegar, director of the animal husbandry department told Bangalore Mirror that the department's job is similar to that of a college management: "We issue certificates based on the performance and criteria of the candidate; it is up to the candidate to attend the interview and get the job. The BBMP, which issues the trade licences, has to scrutinise if the trader is following standards and specifications at the shop as prescribed by the department before issuing trade licences."

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I Greeashma Udaykumar Nair R/O, #164/A, Cozy Home Layout, Sarjapur Road, Near B M T Marutham Garnden, Sompura Gate, Sompura, Bengaluru PIN 562125 Karnataka, INDIA have changed my name to Greeshma Nair.

I Shivanagowda Hanumanthagowda Patil S/O, Hanumantha Gowda R/o No 810, Shiva Anugraha, 14th Cross, 37th Main, J P Nagar 1st Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Shivanagouda Patil

I Anita W/O, Shivakumar Kinni R/o Elegant Valley Apartment, Sf-205a, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bengaluru- 560098 have changed my name to Anita Wadekar for all purposes.

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I, SHEELA PRABHU PATIL, R/at Flat No.301, Amulya Chandra Apts, 9th Main,14th Cross, Judicial Layout, GKVK, Bangalore–560065. I, Have changed my name to SHREYA JAYASIMHA W/o. Jayasimha Vide Affidavit Dated: 04/12/2022 Sworn before Notary: C.V.Earappa, Advocate, Bangalore

I Ramkumar Krishnamachari R/o 60 Ferns Residency, K Narayanapura, Kothanur Bangalore 560077 have changed my minor daughter's name from Sithara Chari Ramkumar to Sithara Chari

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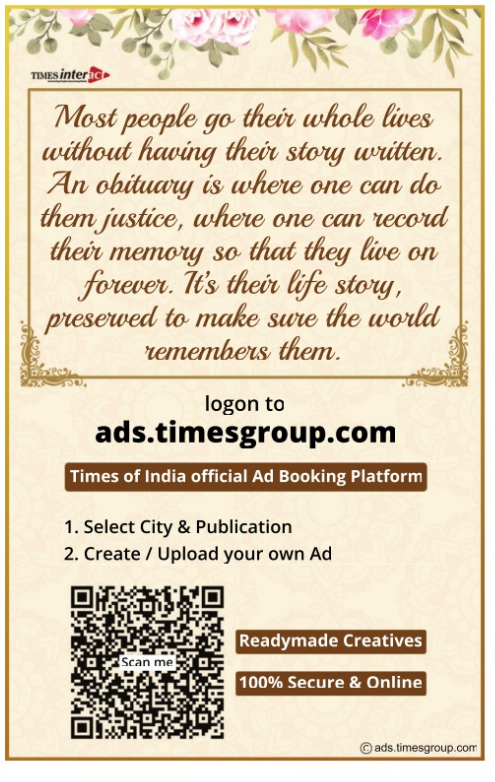
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K'taka dealing with positivity rate surge since last week

Experts want congregations stopped, increased vigil on interstate travel

Iffath Fathima
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The overall Karnataka's positivity rate has seen a jump in the past one week. During the first week of December 2021, the state's positivity rate was 0.36 per cent, it jumped to 0.71 per cent in the last seven days. The health experts insist on curbing congregations and to keep a strong vigilance on the interstate travel where the cases are being reported high.

On December 7, the state's positivity rate was 0.36 per cent, many other districts had a higher positivity rate than the state back then, with Chikkamagaluru positivity rate at 1.33 per cent, Shivamogga, Kodagu and Bengaluru Urban with 0.53%, Mysuru and Uttar Kannada with 0.49% and 0.48%. As of January 3, in the past seven days, two districts with highest positivity rate are Bengaluru Urban with 1.33% and Kodagu with 0.90%.

Dr Anoop Amarnath, head, Scientific Board and Chairman-Geriatric Medicine, Manipal Hospital and member of the state's covid-19 Critical Care Support Team (CCST) said, " The trend of increasing case positivity is concerning. Community-based measures like containment zones and preventing aggregation become important. It is also the right time to ensure preparedness for hospitalisations -- effective triaging, bed availability, oxygen availability and ICU availability."

The Journal of the American Medical Association, which was published on December 30, noted that those with Delta variants had a higher risk of respiratory symptoms at 91per cent and hospitalisations at 69 per cent. While for the Omicron variant, risk of patients with respiratory symptom were 31 per cent and hospitalisation risk was at 41 per cent."

Since the first week of December 2021, the state's positivity rate has jumped from 0.36 per cent, to 0.71 per cent in seven days

Dr Amarnath added, "We need more rapid turnaround of genomic testing as this has an impact on clinical management. Currently, we are focusing on RAT and RT-PCR tests. This does not detect which variant it is, but only tells the patient's positivity status. We need to carry out genomic testing on more patients and the results should come out fast."

Meanwhile, Dr CN Manjunath, Director at Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, said, "All the congregations need to be stopped, be it any form of gathering. Gatherings are just not in the night but even during daytime too, especially during festivals at religious places need to be stopped as with more crowd, infection spread will be higher. We also need to focus on carrying out more tests," he said.

He also added that like the international travels are being screened, the state again needs to keep a watch on interstate travel.

CCCs back in city

Covid third wave officially here, Bengaluru is epicentre, says health minister

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KAUSHIK JN

A covid care centre was inaugurated in Mahalakshmi Layout on Tuesday; With cases rising, CAB monitoring and testing ramps up in city

As Bengaluru breaches 2,000 cases on Tuesday, Covid Care Centres (CCCs) are back in the city. However, as per the bulletin released on Tuesday night, Bengaluru reported 3,048 cases. This is likely to reflect on Wednesday's bulletin.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that cases are doubling every two to three days in Karnataka. "While the government is working on containment measures for the new wave, we urge everyone to strictly follow covid protocols -- mask up, social distance and hand hygiene."

According to statistics, Bengaluru's 2,000-mark is the highest since June 12, 2021 when the city had reported 2,454 cases.

Meanwhile, as the covid-19 cases are increasing in the city, BBMP Chief Commissioner Gaurav Gupta instructed Chief Health Officer Dr Balasundar to identify one covid care centre in each assembly constituency in BBMP limits.

Gupta instructed health officers to give the details (name and address of covid care centres, number of beds, number of oxygenated beds, available cylinders, number of oxygen concentrators among others. People with mild symptoms, if they are unable to take treatment under home isolation, can get treatment at covid care centres."

Meanwhile, Dr Sudhakar officially acknowledged the outbreak of the third wave of covid-19. He said that Bengaluru is the epicentre of the latest outbreak. "Taking special steps in Bengaluru has become very necessary. The city was an epicentre in the first and second waves. It will be the epicentre during the third wave as well," Sudhakar told reporters.

He said people arriving from international countries is one of the reasons behind taking special steps for Bengaluru.

"Everyone should follow covid protocols — mask up, maintain social distance and hygiene
–Dr K Sudhakar , health minister

Sudhakar said the infections went up to 1.6 per cent from a mere 0.4 per cent in the state, of which 90 per cent were reported in Bengaluru.

"Ninety per cent cases in the country are reported from metropolitan cities. Hence, we are focusing on Bengaluru on formation of micro-containment zones and screening at the airport," the minister said.

Sudhakar insisted on people not using "strong words" like lockdown. "Recently, public life is returning to normality. If we start talking of it, then it will disrupt lives," he added.

Four deaths in Karnataka

Fresh covid-19 cases saw another big spike for the fourth consecutive day in Karnataka on Tuesday with 2,479 infections and four deaths, taking the cumulative infections and fatalities to 30,13,326 and 38,355 respectively, the health department said. The state is witnessing an uptick in fresh infections since January 1 when the tally breached the 1,000-mark after a gap of three months.

On January 2, there were 1,187 cases whereas on January 3, 1,290 cases were reported.

The department said in its bulletin that 288 people were discharged, taking the total number of recoveries to 29,61,410. Active cases stood at 13,532. The spike in new cases was driven by Bengaluru Urban which contributed 2,053 infections and three deaths.

(With inputs from agencies)

Weekend curfew & half-full rules

Weekend curfew is back in Bengaluru. Starting this weekend, the city will be shut from 10 pm on Friday to 5 am on Monday. Night curfew that was to end on January 7 will be extended for another two weeks. The latest guidelines will be applicable from Thursday night 10 pm. The new rules will be applicable till January 19. The latest guidelines were put in place after a 3.5 hour meeting of Covid Technical Advisory Committee, ministers and officials chaired by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai. Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said city will be divided into eight zones and a team of IAS and IPS officials will look after hospitals, beds, ambulances and triaging. Passengers from states like Maharashtra and Goa need to get an RT-PCR negative test. All Goa returnees since January 1 will be traced and tested.

Schools go online again

All the classes except classes 10 to 12 will be shifted to online mode. Only 50% capacity will be allowed in cinema halls, pubs and malls, bars and other public places. All those visiting these places need to be fully vaccinated. There is also a cap of 200 people for outdoor weddings and 100 for indoor ones. The 50% rule is applicable to religious places.

NEW GUIDELINES

- All the State Govt offices will function 5 days a week from Monday to Friday during this period
- BMTC and BMRCL will operate as per the seating capacity
- In Bengaluru Urban district, all schools and colleges except Medical and Para Medical will remain closed with effect from 06-01-2022 except Classes 10, 11 and 12
- Pubs/clubs/restaurants/bars/hotels/eating places in hotel etc, will function with 50% of the seating capacity
- Cinema halls/multiplexes/theatres/rangamandiras/auditorium and similar places to operate with 50% of its seating capacity
- Religious places are allowed to open only for Darshan. No seva, etc, is allowed. Entry of people will be restricted to 50 persons at any given time who are fully vaccinated
- Malls, shopping complexes, all stand alone shops and establishments shall operate as usual during weekdays
- Swimming pools and gyms shall operate at 50% capacity but entry will be restricted to fully vaccinated persons
- Sports complexes and stadia are allowed to function with 50% capacity
- All rallies, dharnas, and protests are prohibited

HERE WE GO ALL OVER AGAIN

We take a look at the state of covid in different parts of the country

#New Delhi

More than 147 crore covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered so far in India under the nationwide vaccination drive, informed the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday. Meanwhile, India reported 37,379 new covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, taking the daily positivity rate in the country to 3.24 per cent, said the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Tuesday.

With this, the country's covid-19 case tally has risen to 3,48,08,886.

A covid patient rests on her bed inside a Covid care centre of the Commonwealth Games Village, in Delhi

Delhi: Fresh cases cross 5,000-mark

Delhi on Tuesday reported 5,481 fresh Covid cases, the highest single-day rise after May 16, when the city logged 6,456 infections. The new cases have pushed the infection tally to 14,63,701. According to a source in Delhi health department, it is the onset of the third Covid wave in the city where three deaths were reported in last 24 hours, taking death toll at 25,113. Meanwhile, the Covid infections has climbed at 8.37 per cent, highest in last seven months. As per the Health department, the city had recorded 8.41 per cent positivity rate on May 17.

The number of active Covid cases have jumped to 14,889, the highest since May 27. The capital has, so far, detected 382 cases of new Covid variant Omicron.

Of these, 57 have been discharged from the hospital.

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain said there is a weekend curfew but "no lockdown" being imposed in the city.

Maharashtra: 18,466 new cases

Maharashtra on Tuesday reported 18,466 fresh coronavirus positive cases, around 52 per cent or 6,303 cases more than the previous day's tally, and 20 fatalities, the state health department said.

With these additions, Maharashtra's covid-19 tally rose to 67,30,494 and the death toll to 1,41,573, it said.

Maharashtra recorded 75 new cases of the Omicron variant of the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, taking the count of such cases to 653 so far. Of the 75 Omicron cases, 40 cases were reported from Mumbai, nine from Thane city, eight from Pune city, five from Panvel, three each from Kolhapur and Nagpur, two from Pimpari-Chinchwad, and one each from Bhiwandi Nizampur, Ulhasnagar, Satara, Amravati and Navi Mumbai.

Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar on Tuesday said if the daily cases cross the 20,000-mark, a lockdown will be imposed in the city as per the Union government's rules.

Kerala: Restrictions on people attending functions

De In the wake of increasing covid-19 cases and the rising threat from the Omicron variant of coronavirus, the Kerala government on Tuesday restricted the number of attendees to 75 in weddings, funerals, social, political and cultural programmes in closed spaces while allowing 150 persons in open spaces.

The decision was taken in a high-level meeting convened by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Tuesday.

Kerala reported 3,640 new cases, 30 deaths, 2363 recoveries in the last 24 hours, informed the state government.

Active cases in the state stand at 20,180. After 423 deaths were added to the death tally as per the new guidelines of the Central government, the total number of deaths in Kerala from COVID-19 infection went up to 48,637 said Kerala govt in an official statement.

Kerala has reported a total of 185 Omicron cases so far.

Tamil Nadu: Home Q for vaxxed Omicron patients

Individuals affected with the Omicron variant of Covid-19 and have received two doses of vaccination are advised to be under home isolation and the health department has issued necessary guidelines in this connection, Tamil Nadu Minister Ma Subramanian said on Tuesday.

As of Monday the number of Omicron cases in Tamil Nadu was at 121.

After inaugurating a Covid-19 Siddha Centre in the city, Subramanian said those patients affected by the Omicron variant and have received two vaccine doses are advised home isolation and can receive treatment at home.

"After receiving treatment for five days, the RT-PCR tests will be conducted again and if they test negative they can do their routine work," he told reporters.

Meanwhile, as Covid-19 cases are increasing in Chennai, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) will ramp up testing from 22,000 to 30,000 per day.

Cordelia Cruise passengers were 'fully vaccinated, had negative RT-PCR'

#Mumbai

Waterways Leisure Tourism on Tuesday said passengers who boarded Cordelia Cruise ship last Sunday were not only fully vaccinated but had all tested negative in their RT-PCR at the time of boarding. Besides, all guests who tested positive are all asymptomatic, the cruise liner said in a statement, while maintaining that Cordelia Cruise is "compliant with all regulations by DG Shipping and follows all COVID protocols."

It also said that the company is extending "complete cooperation" to the port authorities, state, central and all other agencies and offices in the matter.

The company said that as of today, due to rising Omicron cases, the cruise scheduled for January 5 has been suspended following DG Shipping's advisory. The statement came after as many as 66 of the 2,000 people onboard the cruise liner, carrying hordes of New Year revellers, tested positive for COVID-19 on its arrival in Goa from Mumbai.

"The guests that boarded the cruise last Sunday had all tested negative in their RT-PCR at the time of boarding. They were also fully vaccinated. It is only when one crew member and, that too someone who works at the back of the house, showed mild symptoms on board last Sunday," Jurgen Bailom- CEO and President, Waterways Leisure Tourism said in a statement.

Cordelia cruise ship arrives from Goa at International Cruise Terminal

Will be seasonal epidemic soon

Even as the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly across the world, and outpacing the previous Delta strain, several Russian and Danish experts have said that the pandemic will end up as seasonal epidemics in this year, media reports said.

According to epidemiologist and Russia's former chief sanitary doctor Gennady Onishchenko, the coronavirus pandemic may be over by May given the observance of all preventive measures and the vaccination drive, TASS news agency reported.

"It's a long time until May... If we do now what is needed, then by that time it should slow down already, at least, get under control," he said.

There are no grounds now for panic since vaccines have already been developed and it is necessary to focus on inoculation against the coronavirus infection, he added.

The Russian Academy of Sciences President Alexander Sergeyev also stated that the current Covid-19 pandemic will transform into seasonal epidemics starting from 2022, the report said.

"I expect that the Covid-19 pandemic will turn into seasonal epidemics, like flu. I should say that the current situation looks pretty much like the 1960s, when the Hong Kong flu epidemic had very serious effects, when many people were seriously ill.

"But vaccines and medicines were created in due time and we have been living with flu for 60 years now and got almost accustomed to it.

What is happening to Covid today looks similar in some respects. A serious epidemic, fears, creation of vaccines and the development of medicines. If there are good, reliable medication protocols, we will begin to see this illness like ordinary flu," he said. —IANS

Pourakarmika restroom plan loses steam

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But, a basic necessity such as this hasn't been provided by the municipal corporation. There are over 18,000 pourakarmikas in the city; still deprived of basic needs, even timely payment of salary — many get their salaries late. They do not even have protective equipment in the time of covid-19. Nor do they have the facility of a canteen for refreshments and food. We have been demanding these for years now. We stand to ensure cleanliness in the city, but we are not looked after at all," she said.

"The proposal was initiated 10 months ago; the tender approval had gone to the government. However, there was an issue, where a person complained regarding the tender process. As a policy, we are committed to the proposal; having the restrooms set up at the mustering points. The approval is in the final stage, and once it's cleared we will identify the spots and have the restrooms made," said BBMP special commissioner for solid waste management Dr Harish Kumar.

The mustering points are centres where the pourakarmikas gather and register their attendance.

Kumar further reiterated why the idea was conceived to construct the restrooms at the assembly points. "The pourakarmikas come to a designated location every morning, wherein they register their attendance. They come back to the same spot around 10.30 am, where they need a place for restrooms, a change of clothes and such. They spread out in teams for work till 2:00 pm and come back to the same point," he explained.

"Once the approval comes, we will have to identify locations. If there is ample space at the mustering points, we can have the restrooms built sooner. Or, we need to look for other spots where the land needs to be acquired. The pourakarmikas have been demanding restrooms for a long time; we want to have all the 200 plus restrooms built as soon as possible," said Dr Kumar.

HEALTH TIP: Beans contain resistant starch that acts as a mild laxative, which helps balance bacteria in the digestive tract

Both raw and dried figs are loaded with protein, fibers and contain a small amount of fat

BEST OF
DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I'm 21 years old. I have white dots underneath the head of the penis. It sometimes gives out a really bad odour. However, it doesn't hurt. Neither is there any irritation. It's just the odour that bothers me. I wash it at regular intervals. Can you tell me how I can get rid of the odour?
Slip back your foreskin and wash it with soap and water. Dry the area and apply Surfaz SN cream for a week. If it's not better, meet a skin specialist.

2 I am a 29-year-old man. I masturbate four to five times a week. But my foreskin doesn't retract completely and is causing pain. What should I do? Is that a problem? I don't have any pain during sex.
Do nothing if your foreskin is slipping back during sex. If it is bothering you meet a sexpert.

3 Are there homeopathic or ayurvedic medicines that can help with premature ejaculation?
Homeopaths claim there are. Also, at least two recognised firms have herbal tablets, specially to improve premature ejaculation. Treatment for this condition goes beyond medication.

4 I am 29 years old and have been married for three years. We have sex often and I don't suffer from any health conditions. I began consuming whiskey in the last year and have it twice in a month. I feel this has affected my erection and I am unable to have sex during the night. Also each time I have sex, I feel weak and tired. What should I do?
Stop the whisky and opt for a daily jog around the park instead. Try to improve your diet and get a medical checkup done.

MEET THE SEXPERTS
Use this QR code to send your questions to us

CANCER SHADOW OVER FERTILITY

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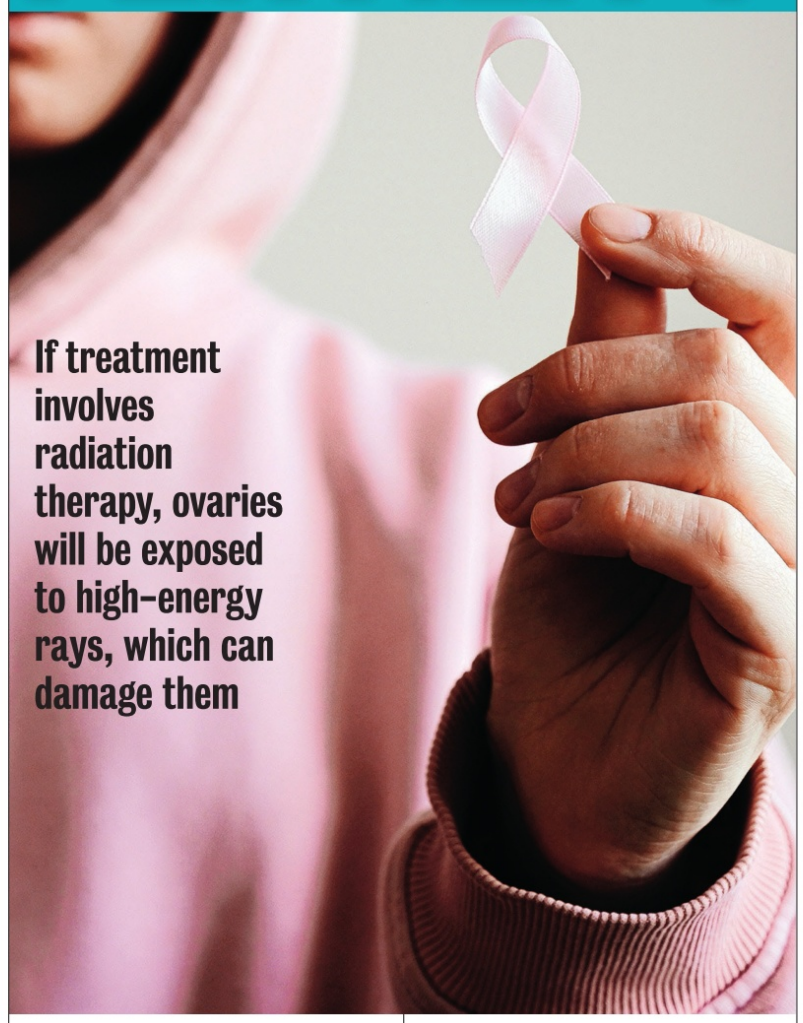

Cervical cancer can impact a woman's chances of becoming pregnant, owing to the fact that cancer treatments pose a risk to fertility. However, preserving fertility during cancer treatments is a possibility now, says Dr Indhumathi Joy Dinakar, Consultant and Fertility Expert, Nova IVF. "Infertility depends on several factors, such as the stage of cancer, time of diagnosis, time remaining before the start of the treatment and the plan of treatment. There are a few options which can prove to be helpful to women looking to preserve their fertility, before embarking on any treatment," she adds.

Cervical cancer, mainly caused due to Human Papillomavirus or HPV (against which women can now get vaccinated), is a type of cancer that starts in the cells of the cervix, the lower part of the uterus and womb. Cervical cancer can affect the deeper tissues in the cervix and spread to other parts as well.

Fertility and cervical cancer

Some methods of treatment of cervical cancer can take away your chances of getting pregnant. Dr Dinakar says, "If cervical cancer is not diagnosed early, chances are that a radial hysterectomy will have to be done, leading to the removal of the uterus or womb from the body. In this case, the patient will not be able to carry a child in the future. This is also true if the ovaries are removed, as the patient will not be able to produce any eggs."

Additionally, if your treatment involves radiation therapy, your ovaries will be exposed to high-energy rays, which can damage them. "This will lead to infertility as some eggs will be destroyed, causing early menopause. Also, women who go through radiation therapy face high chances of miscarriage or premature births as the uterus is exposed to the radiation," explains Dr Dinakar. Further to this, some chemotherapy drugs can also impact the ovaries and uterus, leading to early menopause.

Preserving fertility

Before undergoing any treatment, one must consider fertility-related medical advice from the doctor/specialist.

Conisation

A cone biopsy is performed in the very early stage of cancer when there is a small growth in the cervix. The doctor will remove the cone-shaped area of the cervix or the cancerous tissue. This treatment does not cause infertility completely, although there is a small risk of premature birth and low birth weight. The patient must wait for a period of at least 8-12 months before planning a pregnancy to discuss the risk of miscarriage involved.

Radical trachelectomy

Under this procedure, the doctor will remove the signs of small tumours in the early stage of cervical cancer by removing most of the cervix, the upper part of the vagina and lymph nodes. The doctor will stitch the internal part of the cervix. Dr Dinakar says, "There are good chances of conceiving after this procedure. Due to the permanent stitch in the cervix, the baby can be delivered only by C-section. Pregnancy will be high-risk given the chances of miscarriage and premature birth, needing supervision by a gynaecologist."

For chemotherapy and hysterectomy

If the doctor recommends radiation therapy, chemotherapy or hysterectomy, patient can consider freezing their eggs. One must consult a fertility expert to understand the risks and benefits of egg freezing. Note that radiation treatment and chemotherapy can damage the uterus and ovaries, therefore, the patient won't be able to carry a child in the womb. With egg-freezing, one can conceive with In-vitro fertilization (IVF) or consider finding a surrogate. One must consider getting pregnant a few months after completion of the cancer treatment.

Dealing with cervical cancer and infertility

Cancer, in itself, is a huge issue to deal with. It destroys and damages a person physically and emotionally. "Infertility with cervical cancer can be emotionally draining for both partners. But research and studies have given a ray of possibility to women with cervical cancer to choose other methods of conceiving. Before losing hope, consult your doctor and a fertility specialist, who can guide you through your treatment as well as your chances of conceiving," says Dr Dinakar.

MIRRORLIGHTS

Flakes not-so cool

A dry, itchy scalp is the most common cause of dandruff in the winter. A number of variables contribute to this, including dry, chilly air and a high prevalence of the Malassezia fungus. If you want to reduce and treat dandruff, you'll need to use the correct hair care products for the job. Dandruff is by far the most inconvenient and humiliating hair issue.

Dandruff can be caused by stress, a change in climate (severe heat or cold), an overabundance of fatty foods, a change in shampoo, excessive sweat, and even pollution. Dandruff flares up when Malassezia, a naturally occurring microorganism on the scalp, is worsened by any of these circumstances.

Dr Amrendra Kumar, Consultant Dermatologist and Hair Transplant Surgeon, Director of DermaClinix shares a few tricks to drive away dandruff this winter are as follows-

Avoid direct heat- One of the most common causes of a flaky scalp is excessive heat. Wet hair can cause headaches and colds, which is why hair dryers are so popular in the winter. However, direct heat exposure, such as from ironing boards and hair dryers, dries the scalp. Instead, towel-dry your hair before allowing it to air dries.

Cut down on sugar- Sugar is bad for both your skin and your hair. It turns out that it's also bad for your hair! Excessive oily flakes are caused by high blood sugar levels, which increase dandruff in the winter. Reduce your sugar intake and replace it with honey or jaggery.

Drink more water- We often forget to drink water during the winter, which dehydrates the skin and hair, causing more dandruff. The average daily water consumption limit is set at 5 litres, but if it's getting too cold, 4 litres will suffice! —IANS

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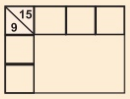
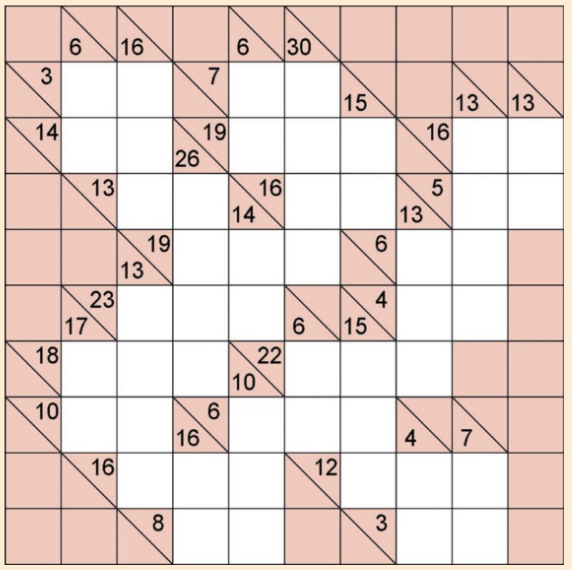
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

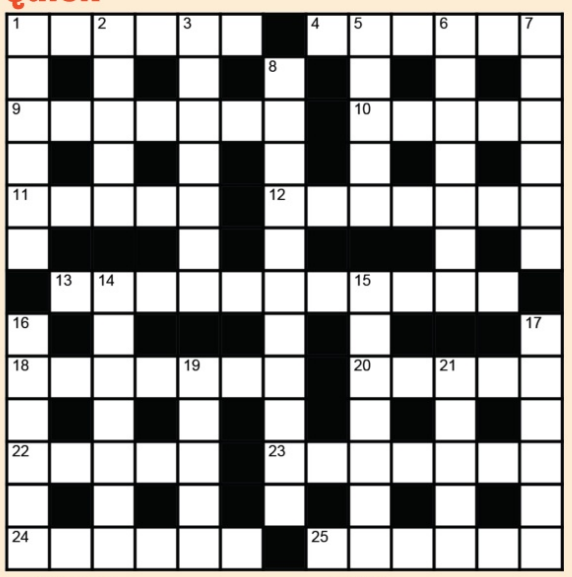


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Noisy quarrels (6)
4 Zend ___ : the holy scriptures for the Parsis? (6)
9 Reindeer (7)
10 Truck (5)
11 First Soviet premier (5)
12 Musical toy (7)
13 Cause to happen; effect? (5,2,4)
18 Move forward (7)
20 Sidestep (5)
22 Divine messenger (5)
23 Impassioned (7)
24 Mad (6)
25 Giraffe-like animals (6)

DOWN

1 Shoe fastener (6)
2 Dress cover (5)
3 Beirut's country (7)
5 Type of residence (5)
6 Narrow waterways (7)
7 Come what may (6)
8 Unusual, causing no obstruction? (3,2,3,3)
14 Damages or plunders (7)
15 Detachable security devices (7)
16 Karnataka tourist destination known for its sculptures and red sandstone cliffs (6)
17 Pokes fun at (6)
19 Christopher ___ : Tenet director (5)
21 Become limp (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Q EQUALS O

BZFXF SH KT SYYFKHWXKGEF CSHBKTAF GFBLFFT EKBF KTC BQQ EKBF.

Linemaro

I was looking at a light bulb today and it made me think of you and how you light up my world

Mindchow

Avoid popularity if what you're looking for is peace

Joke of the day

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be

Loop

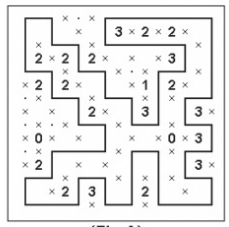
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

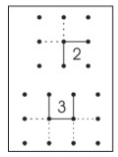
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

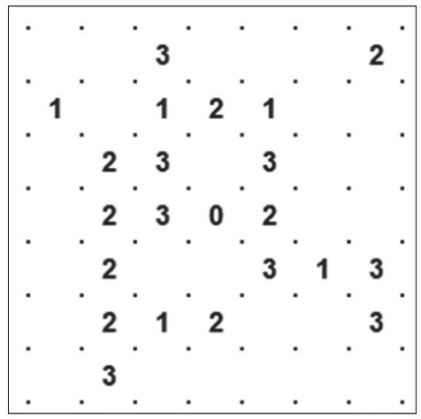
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



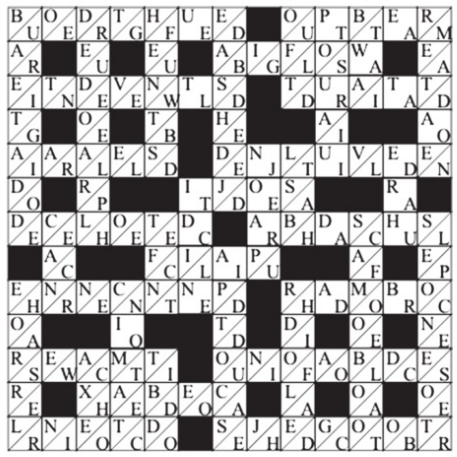
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		K		

ACROSS

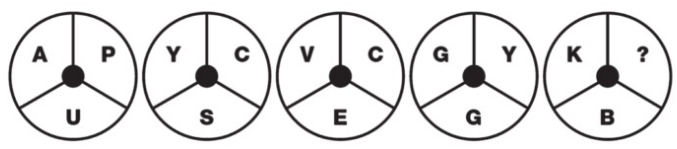
1 Sails; 6 Hoe do; 7 Or lib; 8 Oaten; 9 Drake

DOWN

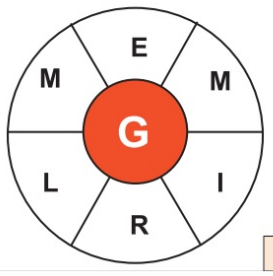
1 Labor; 2 A taro; 3 Hooks; 4 Seen I; 5 Le did

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				2				
8	4		5		9		6	1
	3		8		6		7	
	1	9				4	3	
			4		7			
	7	6				8	9	
	2		9		5		1	
7	6		3		1		2	5
				8				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

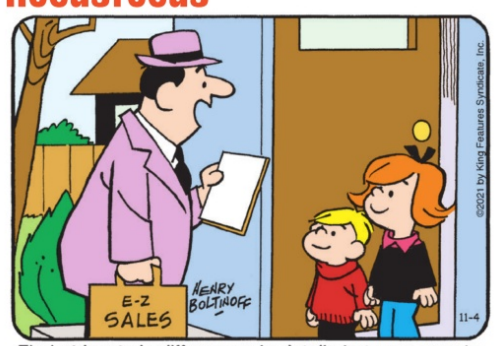
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
2 4 4 8

Medium = 30
3 5 7 8

Hard = 8
2 6 6 4

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

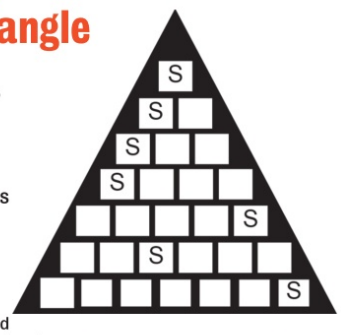
Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Arm is lower. 3. Roof is different. 4. Hat is different. 5. Girl is wearing a skirt. 6. Man is thinner.

Riddler

It fell from a star, But not very far. It seems to fly Above you and I. Look further down to see Cousin Jay below us three. Jump down further to see an empty space. Tell me what "it" is, and where is this place?

Alpha triangle

1 Sulphur symbol
2 South East, abbr.
3 Gelatinize
4 Fat
5 Singing pairs
6 Expelled
7 Temporary routes



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

THAT SURE IS SOMETHING, JERKYMIAH
...THE WAY YOU'VE TRAINED THAT BEAR TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND
10-22
WHUT BAR ?
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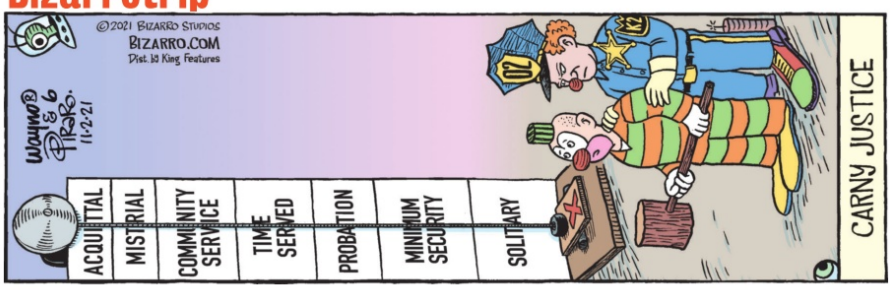
Casson

Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

GUYS, I'M GONNA BE A SWING ACTOR IN THE PLAY!
WHOA, COOL!
CONGRATS!
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT IS, BUT GOOD JOB! WEAR A HELMET!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

LILLIAN, CAN I BORROW YOUR CAR FOR A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT?
WHAT KIND OF FOOL DO YOU THINK I AM, CRANKSHAFT?
OBVIOUSLY, THE KIND OF FOOL WHO WOULD LOAN SOMEONE THEIR CAR FOR A SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENT.
10-21
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BATTUK & DAVIS

Mutts

SHELTER STORIES
"ROMEO"
DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE MANY TALKING BIRDS LOOKING FOR NEW HOMES?
SO COME TO YOUR LOCAL SHELTER AND...
I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT.
mutts.com
11-9

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be able to implement your plans with the help of your strong network at work. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your hard work. There may be a good understanding between you and spouse, which may increase harmony in your domestic life. Your boss may appreciate your hard work.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. Last day's messy situation will be under control. You may initiate your postponed work. With blessings, you may get rewards for your hard work. There will be some gains in your business which may boost your financial health. You may expect some unexpected opportunity, which may increase your business or work. You may also plan for an overseas travel.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may not feel well; you might have health issues which may affect your profession and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to spouse's health issues. Your patience may be tested many times. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and work hard in their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you will be blessed by the moon; you may be able to take quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your business partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you will be blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy, chronic health issues may be cured now. Kids' health may be okay now. Money which was stuck somewhere is likely to be recovered now. You may also repay your debt.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you will be blessed by the moon which may give you peace of mind. You may become decisive, so you may grab the opportunity without a second thought. Past karma may help you to survive in any situation and show you the right path. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants are likely to get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be dull. Detachment from responsibilities may make you upset. You may not able to fulfil your commitments which may affect your prestige. You may be a victim of arrogance; it may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you to do something creative at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be enthusiastic. Your focus towards your goals may be very good. You may easily achieve your target. You are likely to go for short work-related trips which may give you benefits in the near future. Your subordinates may help you to complete the important project. Disputes with the siblings may be raised.

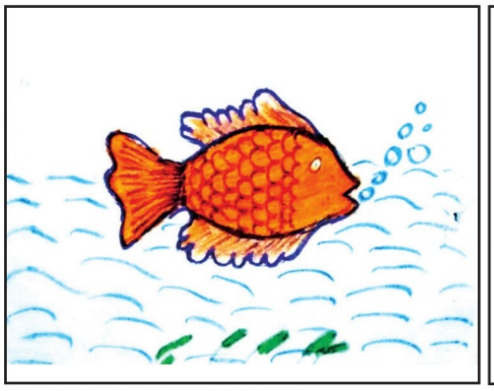
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. You will plan to invest more capital in family business which may increase your family business in near future. You may expect to get some rewards on behalf of your social services. You may expect to hear some good news in your family which may create a joyful environment in the family. You may also enjoy some delicious food.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may feel happy; your health will also be good which may give you inner strength and self-confidence.
Your social prestige is likely to be increased. With the help of good karma, destiny may help you to start some innovative tasks.

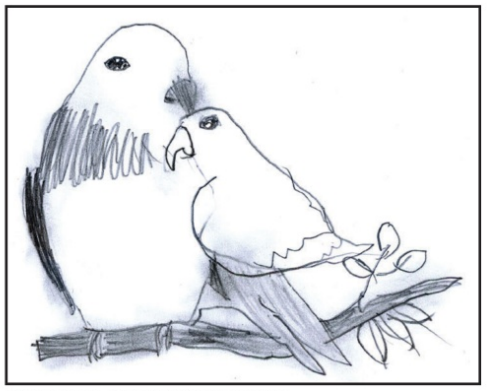
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may be unhappy and disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses due to your harsh speaking while talking with anyone. You are advised to avoid long trips and avoid rash driving. You should keep yourself away from bay areas or oceans.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, there may be peace in the mind. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with the spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles are likely to find a suitable match. You may expect to get ample opportunities at work; you may notice some progress in your life.

KIDZONE



Deeksha Krithi J.H. 10 years, MLA School



Kaveri Sriram, 7 Years, Indus High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
= (10-8+6)÷(1/3)
= 8÷(1/3) = 2

QUOTE UNCODE
There is an immeasurable distance between late and too late.

RIDDLER
By looking at the standard US-style keyboard, you see the answer is the number 8.

FAST FIVE

R	A	K	E	D
A	T	O	N	E
B	R	O	I	L
O	O	H	E	D
L	A	S	S	I

BULL'S EYE
germ, girl, GLIMMER, grim, grime

STRIKE OUT

B	E	R	T	H	E	D	U	T	T	E	R			
R	U		U		A	G	L	O	W		A			
I	N	D	E	N	T	S		T	R	I	A	D		
G	O		T		H		I				O			
A	R	L	E	S		E	N	L	I	V	E	N		
D		P		I	D	E	A			A				
E	C	H	O	E	D		A	B	A	C	U	S		
A		F	L	A	P		A		P					
E	R	E	C	T	E	D		R	A	M	B	O		
A		O		D		I		E		N				
S	W	A	M	I		U	N	F	O	L	D	S		
E	X	E	B	E	C		L		O		O			
L	I	E	T	O		E	J	E	C	T	O	R		

QUICK

B	R	A	W	L	S		A	V	E	S	T	A		
U	P		E	O		I		T		N				
C	A	R	I	B	O	U		L	O	R	R	Y		
K		O		A		T		L		A		W		
A	N	G	E	L		A	M	O	R	O	U	S		
M		E		A		Y		C		O		E		
I	N	S	A	N	E		O	K	A	P	I	S		

MENSA PUZZLE
1. Working from left to right, letters in corresponding segments of the circles move through the alphabet in steps of 2, 3 and 4, with their relative positions moving one place clockwise at each step.

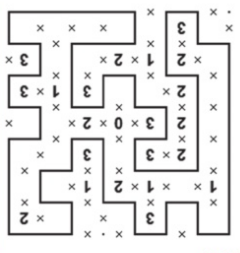
SUDOKU

1	9	5	6	8	2	7	4	3
7	6	8	3	4	1	9	2	5
3	2	4	9	7	5	6	1	8
4	7	6	1	5	3	8	9	2
2	8	3	4	9	7	1	5	6
5	1	9	2	6	8	4	3	7
9	3	2	8	1	6	5	7	4
8	4	7	5	3	9	2	6	1
6	5	1	7	2	4	3	8	9

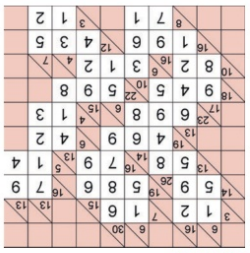
ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, SE, Set, Suet, Duets, Dusted, Detours.

GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 8 – 4 – 2 = 6
Medium
8 – 5 + 7 x 3 = 30
Hard
6 – 6 + 4 x 2 = 8

LOOP



KAKURO



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Insta hit

PeeCee is reigning queen on photo app. Shraddha Kapoor is second and DP is third

Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra is reigning supreme on Instagram.

The actor, who was recently featured on the list of the highest-earning celebs on Instagram, recorded a new high. Chopra is now the most-followed Bollywood star on the photo-sharing app.

With a total of 72.3 million, Priyanka is now the most-followed Bollywood star.

She is followed by Shraddha Kapoor, who currently has 68.5 million followers. Deepika Padukone comes in third with 63.4 million followers, Katrina Kaif is next with 60.4 million followers and coming in fifth is Akshay Kumar who has 58.3 million followers on Instagram.

It was only last August that Priyanka and Deepika made headlines when it was reported that the actors were among the top 10 celebs with the most fake followers.

The Institute of Contemporary Music Performance (ICMP) claimed that 48% of Deepika's followers are bots while Priyanka had 46 per cent of Priyanka's Instagram followers were reported to be fake.

The actor also featured alongside the likes of Kim Kardashian, Christiano Ronaldo and many other stars who earn the highest income for every promotional post. She reportedly earns Rs 3 crore per post.

Sunny Leone on surrogacy

Back in 2018, Sunny Leone and husband Daniel Weber had welcomed twins Noah and Asher, via surrogacy. However, it happened after a lot of struggle, as the actress shared it was 'really heartbreaking' for her, when the surrogacy wasn't working out for the couple.

The couple had also adopted a girl named Nisha. Recently the actress spoke about bout having three children in a short span of time, and revealed when surrogacy didn't plan out for them, they explored adoption.

Speaking of surrogacy with Bollywood Bubble, the actress shared that it took around a year-and-a-half in totality, and after one point, it was 'really heartbreaking' for her. That is when they decided to register for adoption.

"It took about a year-and-a-half from start to finish and during that time, before we decided 'hey, why don't we just adopt?', surrogacy wasn't going as planned. We had six eggs - four girls and two boys"

The actress shared how in America, one gets to know the gender can go ahead doing genetic testing and all that kind of stuff. In India, they did IVF (in vitro fertilization) and the girls didn't turn into a baby. The actress shared that phase was really heartbreaking, and there were times she felt like a failure. "You feel so low and so upset about it," told Sunny.

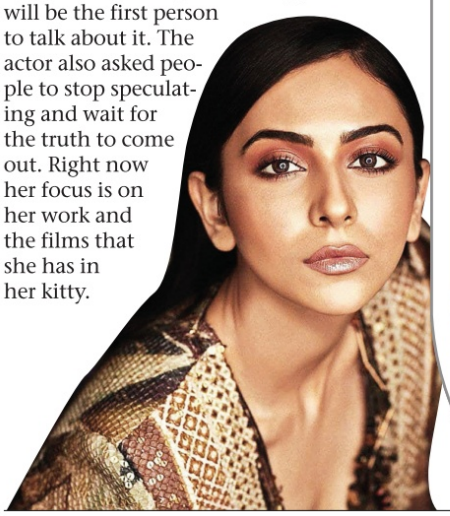
During that time, Sunny revealed she and Daniel were visiting the St Catherine's Home, an orphanage in Mumbai. That is when she felt, why can't they adopt a baby, as she will still be theirs. "We went there and we were seeing all these babies and I was like, 'Why can't we just adopt a baby? She is still ours." Soon after they adopted, they found out they were having twin boys and a little girl all in the same week. "We call that God's plan," Sunny told the news portal.

— ETimes

Stop marriage speculations

Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani recently made their relationship official last year on Instagram. Ever since then, fans have been speculating about their marriage.

Rakul recently told a news portal that marriage or any other rumours that are not true, doesn't bother her at all. According to her, she has learnt to keep her blinders on and keep working. She has been transparent in her life and as and when that step has to happen, she will be the first person to talk about it. The actor also asked people to stop speculating and wait for the truth to come out. Right now her focus is on her work and the films that she has in her kitty.



Nasser is on board

Veteran South Indian actor Nasser joined the team of Shivaji Surathkal 2. The senior actor will be playing father to lead actor Ramesh Aravind. "Shivaji Surathkal 2 is a thriller that will also explore father-son emotions," says director Akash Srivatsa, adding that the highlight of the film is Ramesh Aravind and Nasser coming together on the silver screen for the first time.

"Nasser plays the role of Vijendra Suratkal, who is retired from the police department. The details of why Vijendra Surathkal did not appear in the first part will be revealed in the film. Besides, the father and son are not in talking terms, all that and more will be revealed in the sequel," shares the director. Nasser and Ramesh Aravind have known each other for the past 25 years, but have never worked together. "He has completed 10 days of shoot and will participate in five days of shoot again. The film, a sequel to the hit 2020 release, has Nakul Abhayankar's music and cinematography by MG Guruprasad. Produced by Rekha KN and Anoop Gowda, the film cast consists of Radhika Narayan, Raghu Ramanakoppa, Vinayak Joshi and Vidya Murthy.

–Mahesha H

The cinema that shaped Shahid's craft

Shahid Kapoor recently discussed the kind of cinema he has grown up on which has made a lasting impact on his mindspace.

He said, "I have grown up on films which had stories. There was originality and there were well-fleshed out stories. I watched a lot of my father, Pankaj Kapur's works. My mother, Neelima, was a classical dancer and the exposure I had to the exponents of classical dance and music was of another kind and sensibility, thanks to her. I absorbed and assimilated these things in my system and they subconsciously have shaped my thinking in many ways. I grew up on a lot of cinema that was made in India. The thing is that cinema in our country has gone through several phases of its own.

Rachana Dubey, ETimes